



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Takayuki ARAKI et al.		
		Conf.:	4040
Appl. No.:	10/022,541		
		Group:	1773
Filed:	December 20, 2001		
		Examiner:	Sheeba Ahmed
Title:	SURFACE-MODIFIED NICKEL FINE POWDER		

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 12, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 4, 2003, for which the period for response has been extended one month, applicants respond as follows:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.